

day; they are not found in other nearby patients, suffering from other diseases but not having typhus; they show the agglutination phenomena known in typhoid.

#### NEMATODE IN THE MUSCLES OF THE EARTHWORM

B. Buchanan, in Proceedings of Royal Society of Victoria Aug. 1910, describes a parasite (probably nematode) with an interesting habitat. It was found imbedded in the circular muscle layer of an earthworm. It has the general appearance of a nematode, but lacks entirely the reproductive bodies. The author suggests that it may be the larval stage.

#### A DEVICE FOR TRANSFERRING SPECIMENS

A simple method of transferring specimens while dehydrating and clearing was devised by a student a few years ago and has proven very convenient for general work.

An aluminum thimble such as can be obtained for five or ten cents is perforated by many pin-holes and a bail of thread is attached at the top. The specimens are placed in the basket thus formed and lifted from one solution to another without handling. The thread bail is long enough to hang over the top of the bottle containing the solution and so support the thimble at the surface of the liquid to prevent light specimens from floating out. The stopper can be returned to hold the thimble in position as well as to cover the bottle.

ELDA R. WALKER.

#### CHARTS TO SUIT THE COURSE

It may not be generally known to biologists how easily and cheaply very presentable charts may be made, right in the laboratory. White or cream-colored curtain cloth (Holland) of any convenient width, say forty inches, may be bought by the roll of ten yards or more, and may easily be cut into proper lengths and tacked onto one inch half-round moulding. The moulding may be bought, cut into proper lengths, say forty-two inches, of any planing mill, and may be painted and varnished in a very short time. It is best not to attach the cloth to the moulding until after the figures are drawn.

The figures should first be outlined lightly in pencil or in white chalk, and then be finished with India ink and water colors of the desired shades.

Any student assistant can, with care, make very creditable charts, or they may be obtained by having each student in a technic course make a chart, or a part of one, as a part of the work of the course.

Diagrams and figures representing sections are very easily drawn; surface views and dissections require more artistic skill.

The ink and the water colors can be applied without difficulty with ordinary camel's hair brushes.

The chief advantage in making these charts is that the exact series of figures desired for any particular course may be copied from well known sources.

A. M. REESE.

It is a pleasure to announce that Mr. Ernst Leitz of Wetzlar, Germany, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the University of Marburg in recognition of his distinguished services to science thru the making of optical instruments during the last half century.

Major E. V. Elwes, in the *Journal of Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* for 1910, furnishes some very valuable analytic keys to the genera of littoral polychetes from the shores of the English Channel.

#### THE BUILD OF A MICROSCOPE

A comparison between the Microscopes of say 20 years ago and of the present day discloses many modifications in construction and design. In place of the former tall instrument in bright brass frequently with considerable more vibration than could be tolerated nowadays, we have the compact, sombre-looking models with which present day workers are familiar.

In a microscope stand, rigidity and freedom from spring when the various parts are brought into working are extremely desirable, but are very difficult to attain with high power oil immersion objectives. Much of this spring is observable when pressure is put on the stage to move the object in the field. A step in the right direc-